the severity and frequency of the paroxysms. The general care of asthmatic children is important, because in most cases a careful study will reveal some exciting cause that can be removed, or some morbid condition, as constipation or indicanuria, that can be corrected. Attention to these suggestions with diligence in discovering and removing other possible causes, will enable many asthmatic children to enjoy comparative freedom from attacks, and to develop into happy, useful citizens.

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# THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES OF THE FOREARM, WITH NOTES OF THE END RESULTS OF 52 CASES TREATED WITHOUT OPERATION.[1]

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Nearly four years ago, in a paper discussing the end results of 61 cases of fracture of the femur, treated without operation, which was presented before this Academy,[2] it was stated that it seemed incumbent on those surgeons who advocated operative treatment as a matter of routine in cases of recent fracture "either to demonstrate the evil results which they regard as a necessary consequence of accepted" (that is, non-operative) "methods, or to bring forward proof that by operation still better results can be obtained, and without unjustifiable risk to the patient." It was further stated: "The advocates of operative treatment, in short, should either be able to show that the methods they propose will not increase the immediate mortality and will greatly diminish or altogether prevent the unfavorable results of conservative treatment; or, failing this, they should at least convince conservative surgeons that the functional results of the accepted forms of treatment are such as can no longer be tolerated."

To our knowledge no series of cases has been published, of fractures of any long bone in the body, demonstrating either the inadequacy of conservative measures or the superiority and equal safety of operative treatment. It is to show that a fairly large series of cases of fracture of the forearm, involving both bones

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[1] Read before the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, February 5, 1912.

[2] Ashhurst and Newell, Annals of Surgery, 1908, ii, 748.

*in some part of their shafts,* may be treated with satisfactory results without a single resort to operation, that we now present a study of these 52 cases. From this series are excluded cases of fractures involving the elbow or the wrist joint, and cases of Colles's fracture of the radius complicated by fracture of the ulnar styloid. Fractures of the forearm, thus limited to injuries of the shafts of the ulna and radius, do not form a large proportion of the cases of fracture seen, but they have been selected for this analysis because, next to those of the femur or leg bones, they are at present the type most often (and we believe usually quite unnecessarily) subjected to operation.

These patients were treated in the services of one of the writers at the Episcopal Hospital and at the Children's Hospital. In almost every case the patients first apply for treatment out of dispensary hours, soon after the accident which produced the fracture. They are dressed then by the surgical interne on duty in the receiving ward at the time, skiagraphs are made, and the patients are referred to the out-patient department for further treatment. Although in the very busy dispensary services in which they are treated it is not always practicable, our aim always has been to examine and dress with our own hands *all the recent fractures,* and to continue to dress them with our own hands *until union is fairly firm.* We have never relegated any cases of fracture to the care of orderlies or nurses, nor have we ever turned them over to the internes until we have ascertained by repeated and persistent personal instruction and supervision that the particular interne on duty was capable of applying the dressings in a satisfactory manner. In the treatment of fractures, as in many other important departments of surgery, one must remember that "eternal vigilance is the price of safety."

REDUCTION. "Reducing" a fracture is a relative term, since comparatively few broken bones can be accurately restored to their original form; and in the case of *shafts of long bones* it is not always necessary that reduction should be accurate. Nevertheless, the aim must be to secure as accurate reduction as possible, and in the case of fractures near joints (especially the elbow) accurate reduction is extremely important; but in the middle of the shaft of a long bone it is sufficient to secure *firm bony union,* with *no appreciable shortening,* and with *preservation of the normal axis of the limb.* For the first and second results to be obtained it is necessary for the fragments to be in contact "end-on," not only by lateral contact; and for the lateral displacement, not to exceed two-thirds of the diameter of the bone.

Anesthesia rarely will be necessary in reducing a fracture of the forearm if the surgeon takes advantage of the relaxation of the muscles which may be secured by position of the limb. *Full supination of the forearm* is the position preferred, with the elbow flexed to a right angle. Correct replacement of the ulnar fracture usually can be determined clinically, as this bone is subcutaneous; but the radius is buried among so many muscles that a skiagraph frequently is necessary to ascertain the position of the fragments if the fracture is above the middle of the bone.

The forearm is then dressed *in full supination*[3] between two straight splints, specially cut to fit each individual patient. They should be a little wider than the forearm, so as to prevent crowding the bones together laterally, but not so wide as to permit rotation of the forearm within the splints. The palmar splint extends from the bend of the elbow to the tips of the fingers, while the dorsal splint extends from the olecranon to the wrist. These splints should be smoothly but thickly padded with raw cotton. A longitudinal pad placed between the bones, in an effort to wedge them apart is not only useless but harmful. Extra compresses, however, may well be placed over any of the fragments that tend to project. The splints are then strapped snugly around the forearm by bands of adhesive plaster at the wrist and below the elbow, and are held securely in place by a roller bandage. A large "handkerchief" or "triangular" sling is applied, supporting the forearm throughout its length, and the forearm is carried against the chest, but always in full supination. In very small children, and in adults where the seat of fracture is near the elbow, this joint is immobilized by employing an anterior angular splint, known in Philadelphia as Hartshorne's, instead of the straight palmar splint.

The position of full supination is employed not only because supination is the most difficult part of rotation to regain,[4] if once lost, and because the upper fragment of the radius usually is kept in supination by the biceps; but because it was found by one of the writers when the forearm was dressed in mid-pronation, as commonly advised now, and as formerly employed by him, that the fragments sagged by the force of gravity, and that the patients recovered not only with lost supination, but with angular deformity of both bones toward the ulnar side. If attempt is made to correct this deformity by adjusting a coaptation splint over the angular projection of the ulna, this may indeed be overcome, but the surgeon will succeed merely in forcing the ulna nearer the radius which cannot be influenced by such an appliance; and the disability as regards rotation will be increased. However, fractures in which no tendency to displacement exists, such as greenstick and subperiosteal fractures, may be treated successfully in the semi-prone position.

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[3] According to Malgaigne (Fractures, Paris, 1847, p. 591) this position was condemned by Hippocrates, though used by his contemporaries. Its advantages were pointed out by Paré, who was opposed to the semi-prone position until he learned that the latter had been approved by Hippocrates, whereupon Paré resumed the use of the semiprone position. Malgaigne thought he was himself the first of modern surgeons to return to the use of full supination, advised in his Anatomie Chirurgicale (1838), until he learned that Lonsdale (London Med. Gaz., 1832, ix, 910) had preceded him.

[4] The patient regains pronation by active use of the hand; very few motions require extreme supination.

Often it is exceedingly difficult to keep these fractures even approximately reduced during the first week or ten days; and it is during this period that impatient surgeons are apt to urge operation as the only solution of the difficulty. But usually a little better position can be secured at each dressing, and when the ends of the bones begin to become sticky, during the second week, it will be found that deformity daily becomes less, and what looked at first (to the inexperienced) like a hopeless case, will result in a very useful arm, and one with slight or with no visible deformity. Skiagraphs are valuable and interesting, but a surgeon never should be terrified by the appearance of the forearm bones in a skiagraph into thinking that only operative treatment can give his patient a good result. If he uses the eyes in the ends of his fingers, he will secure by conservative means quite as good, and in many cases a much better result than by operation, and in a shorter time.

After Care. This involves removal of the dressing frequently enough to make sure that the soft parts are in good condition, and that reduction is maintained by the dressings employed. The surgeon never should neglect to see the patient on the day after the dressing is first applied, and to ascertain for himself that the limb is in good condition, and that the dressing is comfortable. An uncomfortable dressing always is inefficient, even if not positively harmful; but if the dressing is comfortable it is not desirable to redress the limb more than two or three times weekly at first, and less often as union progresses. As the splints and bandages are being removed for re-dressing, the patient sits facing the surgeon, and the forearm lies supine on the patient's thigh. The palmar splint is lifted carefully off without moving the forearm, and the flexor surface and sides of the forearm and hand are gently bathed in dilute alcohol; then without rotating the forearm at all it is gently raised as a whole from the dorsal splint, and the extensor surface is bathed similarly, correct apposition of the fragments being maintained all the time. Any undue haste or rapid movement or attempts at rotation will be painful, will evoke muscular spasm, and may cause displacement of the fragments.

We do not approve massage or mobilization in the treatment of fractures, except in so far as they are unavoidable in procuring proper care of the soft parts; and while we acknowledge the truth of the dictum of Lucas-Championnière that "a certain amount of motion between the fragments encourages the formation of callus," we are firmly of the opinion that even the most careful immobilization by splints allows, and proper care of the soft parts, as above indicated, provides that "certain amount" of motion which is desirable; and that any surgeon who attempts more, in the vain idea that he is following modern teaching, will succeed either in stirring up such an amount of callus (especially in children) as to cause deformity and injurious pressure on the soft parts, or (in most adults) will leave his patient with an ununited fracture.

When the ends of the bones become "sticky" and no tendency to displacement exists, the surgeon may then begin to make very limited degrees of passive motion in the neighboring joints at each dressing, meanwhile maintaining support at the seat of fracture. Under no circumstances should the passive motion cause pain. When union is firm enough for all external support to be discontinued, function usually will be more comfortably and quickly recovered by active movements by the patient himself, than by further attempts at psssive motion; and if a fracture has been treated properly in the first place, massage very rarely will be necessary to accelerate the cure.

Operative Treatment of Simple Fractures. We believe there are only two indications for the "open method" of treating simple fractures: (1) If the fracture cannot be properly reduced without operation, and (2) if proper reduction cannot be maintained without direct fixation of the fragments.

1. *When Proper Reduction is Impossible.* Impossibility is here a relative term, since what is impossible for one surgeon may not be so for another; and the qualification "proper" reduction is employed because we do not wish to imply that operation is indicated whenever accurate, exact, perfect, anatomical replacement is impossible, but only when such degree of reduction, as has been described in a previous paragraph as requisite for proper function, cannot be secured without open operation. Less perfect reduction is requisite in children than in adults, since in the former compensation is more rapidly established; and oblique fractures require less close and accurate apposition of their ends than do transverse fractures.

2. *When Subsequent Displacement Cannot be Prevented.* This also is a relative condition, depending on the skill of the surgeon in devising and applying efficient retentive apparatus, and upon the extent to which displacement occurs.

After operation the process of union often is slower than it would have been if no operation had been employed; and in a fair proportion of cases operated on by the average surgeon a mild degree of infection occurs, and only fibrous union results.

Statistics. These cases form a continuous series, absolutely unselected, running through a period of ten years. Of 66 patients treated, the end results are known in 52 cases; 43 of the fractures occurred in males, and only 9 in females. None of the female patients was older than fifteen years. Of the males, 31 were less than fifteen years of age, and 12 were older. The youngest patient (a girl) was seventeen months old, and the oldest (a man) was fifty-seven years. The right and left arms were affected nearly with equal frequency.

For estimating the power of rotation, a special instrument (Fig. 1) was devised, and was constructed for us by D. W. Kolbe Co. For establishing a standard, the average normal rotation was ascertained by testing one hundred normal forearms of fifty persons (25 male, 25 female). The instrument consists of an indicator, kept vertical by gravity, and centred on a circular protractor. This protractor is attached to an upright board which itself is fastened at right angles to a horizontal board. The horizontal board is strapped on the flexor surface of the wrist, the forearm being in full supination. In this position the indicator points to 0 degrees. If still further supination is possible, this is recorded as a *minus* quantity, of say 5, 10, or 15 degrees. As the forearm is rotated into pronation the protractor also rotates, but the indicator remains vertical and passes over the rotating scale from 0 degree up to 135 degrees or 140 degrees or more, according to the extent of pronation possible (Fig. 2). During this examination, it is needless to say, the patient's humerus should be kept immovably applied to the side of the thorax, and no deviation of the body from the vertical should be permitted.

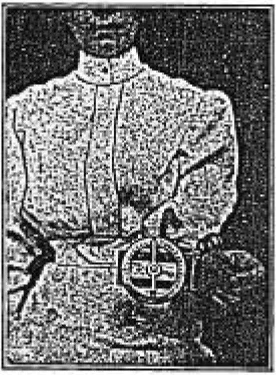

FIG. 1.—Pronometer, or instrument for measuring the degree of pronation and supination. Indicator points to zero degrees in supine position.

NORMAL ROTATION. Our examination of 100 normal forearms gave the following results:

Ages varied from fourteen to seventy-seven years; average age, twenty-nine years.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Supination: | Greatest . . . | —45.00 degrees. | Least . . . . | 15.00 degrees. |
| | Average . . . | —11.72 degrees. | In males . . . | — 7.42 degrees. |
| | | | In females. . . | —16.02 degrees. |

Average of right forearm —7.24 degrees; of left —16.2 degrees.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pronation: | Greatest . . . . | 180.00 degrees. | Least . . . . | 120.00 degrees. |
| | Average . . . . | 147.77 degrees. | In males . . . | 148.24 degrees. |
| | | | In females . . . | 147.30 degrees. |

Average of right forearm, 147.24 degrees; of left, 148.00 degrees.

Greatest range of rotation in any one patient, from —45 degrees to 155 degrees, or 200 degrees.
Least range of rotation in any one patient from 0 degree to 122 degrees, or 122 degrees.
Average rotation from —11.72 degrees to 147.77 degrees, or 159.49 degrees.

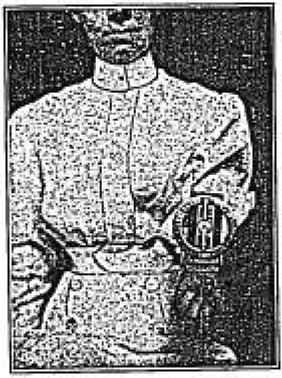

FIG. 2.—Pronometer. Indicator points to 90 degrees when forearm is in "mid-pronation."

RESULTS. In studying the end results of these 52 cases, it may first be stated what was not secured: there was no case of gangrene of the soft parts or of necrosis of the bones; there was no case of ischemic contracture; none of nerve lesion; none of ununited fracture; none of conspicuous deformity. There was one case of delayed union (Case 37), but this patient cured himself, by returning to his work as a blacksmith at the end of ten weeks. There were several cases in which some thickening or irregularity could be felt at the site of fracture; but none in which these were appreciable at a glance. There was no case of disability, even slight. And these results were obtained without excluding 9 more or less complicated cases, as follows: 1 case of badly comminuted fracture (Case 39); 1 case of fracture of both bones of both forearms (Cases 2 and 3); 3 cases of multiple fractures of the upper extremity (Cases 1, 25, 26) involving both the humerus and the bones of the forearm, two of which were compound comminuted fractures; as well as 3 other cases of compound fracture (Cases 7, 32, 47). None of the cases of compound fracture, however, was such as to require operation on account of the condition of the soft parts.

The end results may be seen at a glance in the following table. Under the heading "perfect result" we include only such cases as have recovered without palpable deformity, and with preservation of perfect function. If, in spite of preservation of perfect function, there is palpable deformity, as in Cases 2 and 3, the patients are recorded in the second column, as "slight deformity, but perfect function." If there is limitation of function the cases are placed in the third column; in none was there any limitation of function except in rotation; and in none was there any disability.

END RESULTS OF FIFTY-TWO CASES OF FRACTURE OF BOTH BONES OF THE FOREARM.

| Character of fracture. | Class I. Perfect result. | Class II. Slight deformity. | Class III. Rotation limited. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Greenstick | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Simple complete | 22 | 8 | 4 |
| Simple comminuted | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Compound | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Compound comminuted | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 34 (65.4%) | 10 (19.2% | 8 (15.4%) |

The skiagraphs of end results, which we have chosen for reproduction here, are those of cases in which the prognosis seemed least favorable, and represent, therefore, much worse than the average skiagraphic results. As far as cosmetic results are concerned, there was no visible deformity in any of these cases except in Cases 2, 3, 26, 39, 48, and 51; and in these patients a mere glance at the bared arm will not detect any deformity.

In Class I we have included Cases 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 50, 52.

In Class II are included Cases 2, 3, 20, 21, 30, 33, 40, 47, 48, 49.

In Class III are included Cases 7, 9, 13, 15, 26, 32, 39, 51.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Thos. S. Stewart, radiographer to the Episcopal Hospital, and to his assistant, Dr. A. R. W. Wilkinson, for the interest they have taken in providing us with numerous skiagraphs for the purpose of this study.

## ABSTRACTS OF CASE HISTORIES.

CASE 1.—Michael C., aged fifteen years. May 6, 1902. Episcopal Hospital. Multiple fractures of right upper extremity (surgical neck of humerus, both bones of forearm, compound of ulna). Recorded as Case I in a paper on "Multiple Fractures" (Ashhurst, *Annals of Surgery,* 1907, ii, 263). Full supination. Examined February 20, 1907. No visible or palpable deformity anywhere. Does heavy laboring work, and would not know arm ever had been injured. Perfect result. Class I. (Fig. 3.)

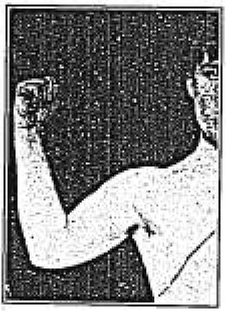

FIG. 3.—Case I. Five years after compound fracture of both bones of forearm, and fracture of humerus. No deformity. Perfect function.

CASES 2 and 3.—Augustus F., aged thirty-five years. March 16, 1903. Episcopal Hospital. Fracture of both bones of both forearms, sixteen days previously; has been dressed on internal angular and short dorsal splints, in position of mid-pronation. Arms gave constant pain. No attempt at union, because fragments were not in contact and were not immobilized. By putting forearms in full supination better position was secured, but complete reduction was impossible. However, pain was immediately and absolutely relieved. Two weeks later, good union. Examined October 28, 1911. Says he never knows arms were broken; was out of work only fourteen weeks in all, and has worked as machinist ever since with perfect function. There is no visible deformity, but the displaced fragments are still palpable. Supination in both forearms complete; pronation on right to 135 degrees, and on left to 130 degrees. Without seeing the skiagraphs made recently (Figs. 4 and 5), the results might be considered perfect. Class II.

CASE 4.—Harry H., aged ten years. September 1, 1903. Episcopal Hospital. Right. Treated in supination. Examined October 28, 1911. Full supination, pronation to 165. Class I.

CASE 5.—Phoebe G., aged two years. October 15, 1903. Episcopal Hospital. Right, greenstick. Examined October 28, 1911. Full supination, pronation to 160. Class I.

CASE 6.—Adolph W., aged ten years. October 19, 1903. Episcopal Hospital. Right. Examined, January 28, 1912. Broken

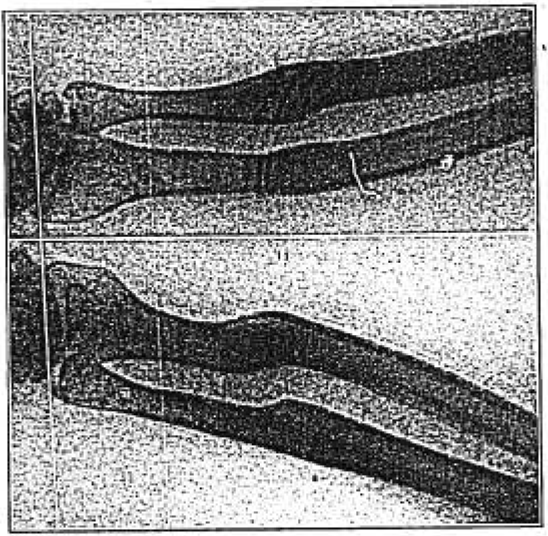

FIG. 4.—Cases II and III. Antero-posterior views of both forearms, eight years after injury. Function perfect.

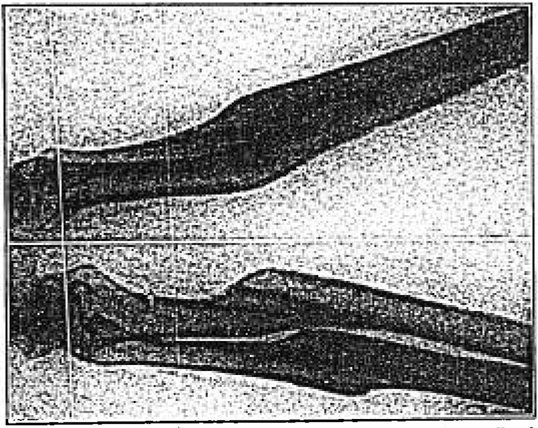

FIG. 5.—Cases II and III. Lateral view of both forearms eight years after injury. Function perfect. Patient first came under the writer's care sixteen days after injury.

arm, supination —20 degrees, pronation 130 degrees; normal arm, supination —15 degrees, pronation 135 degrees. Class I.

CASE 7.—William T. S., aged forty years. January 18, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Right, simple of radius, compound comminuted of ulna. Examined five weeks later. Function good, but some limitation of supination. Class III.

CASE 8.—Fred. S., aged fifteen years. January 18, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Dressed in full supination. Examined March, 1904. Class I.

CASE 9.—Thomas M., aged twenty-five years. January 19, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Left, above middle. Great and persistent overlapping, with projection of upper fragments of radius and ulna on extensor surface. Dressed in mid-pronation, on internal angular and short dorsal splint. Examined March 12, 1904. Very slight deformity; no supination beyond mid-position. Class III.

CASE 10.—George H., aged twenty-eight years. January 23, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Left, middle third. Dressed in mid-pronation. Examined, March 12, 1904. Class I.

CASE 11.—Emma L., aged two years. January 31, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Greenstick. Examined March 3, 1904. Class I.

CASE 12.—William A., aged twelve years. April 12, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Left, treated in mid-pronation. Examined October 28, 1911. Supination full, pronation to 135 degrees. Class I.

CASE 13.—Fred. H., aged sixteen years. April 15, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Right, dressed in mid-pronation. Had refracture of same forearm in November, 1904. Examined January 27, 1912. No deformity, no disability. Right: supination, 25 degrees; pronation, 120 degrees. Left: supination, 20 degrees; pronation, 145 degrees. Class III.

CASE 14.—Albert S., aged thirteen years. September 1, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Greenstick. Treated in mid-pronation. Examined October, 1904. Class I.

CASE 15.—James M., aged eight years. September 8, 1904. Episcopal Hospital. Left lower third. Very great cellulitis. Treated in mid-pronation. Examined October, 1904. No deformity, but little supination beyond mid-position. Class III.

CASE 16.—Thomas McG., aged fourteen years. December 7, 1905. Episcopal Hospital. Right; of radius above insertion of pronator teres, and greenstick of ulna, same level. Treated in full supination. Examined December 29, 1905. No deformity, full supination, pronation good. Class I.

CASE 17.—Anna D., aged fourteen years. December 23, 1905. Episcopal Hospital. Right. Treated in full supination. Examined January 15, 1906. Class I.

CASE 18.—John F., aged thirteen years. December 29, 1905. Episcopal Hospital. Middle third. Treated in full supination.

Examined October 28, 1911. Full supination, pronation 165 degrees. Class I.

CASE 19.—Juliette J., aged eight years. July 3, 1906. Children's Hospital. Greenstick, middle third. Treated in full supination. Examined August 2, 1906. Class I.

CASE 20.—Carrie C., aged six years. August 2, 1906. Children's Hospital. Injury two weeks ago at Atlantic City, and dressed in mid-pronation. On admission today, fracture at junction of middle and lower thirds of right forearm; no union, fair position; but bowing of ulna to extensor surface. Treated in full supination. August 21, union good, no deformity; full supination and pronation. Examined August 28, 1906. Upper fragment of ulna displaced slightly posteriorly; functions perfect. Class II.

CASE 21.—John S., aged twelve years. August 6, 1906. Children's Hospital. Left, junction of middle and lower thirds. Fell from tree; was stunned. Upper fragment of ulna projects beneath skin of flexor surface; both lower fragments displaced toward extensor and radial surfaces. Treated in full supination. August 10. Deformity persists; pad over upper fragment of ulna. August 14. Position better; growing firmer. August 21. Position fair; bones firm. Examined September 5, 1906. Little deformity, no disability; supination and pronation complete. Class II.

CASE 22.—William G., aged seven years. November 3, 1906. Episcopal Hospital. Left, greenstick, middle third. Dressed in full supination. Then patient visited another dispensary, and when splint applied there fell off of itself, he returned to Episcopal Hospital, November 19, with marked dorsal bowing of both bones. Bones were re-fractured, deformity reduced, and forearm dressed in full supination. Examined December 10, 1906. No visible deformity, but a little callus palpable over radius. Full supination and pronation. Class I.

CASE 23.—Albert S., aged eleven years. November 15, 1906. Episcopal Hospital. Right, complete of radius, greenstick of ulna. Dressed in full supination. Examined December 12, 1906. Class I.

CASE 24.—Hugh F., aged fourteen years. November 21, 1906. Episcopal Hospital. Left, above wrist. Full supination. Examined October 28, 1911. Supination complete, pronation to 180 degrees. Class I.

CASE 25.—Andrew M., aged fourteen years. December 22, 1906. Episcopal Hospital. Left; compound comminuted fracture of both bones of left forearm with compound comminuted fracture of left humerus. (Reported as Case VI in paper on "Multiple Fractures," in *Annals of Surgery*, 1907, ii, 263.) Treated in ward for nine days, then in dispensary. Forearm dressed in full supination. Fig. 6 is from a photograph taken three months after the accident. Examined October 28, 1911. Supination and pronation complete. No deformity. Figs. 7 and 8 are from skiagraphs made in January, 1912. Class I.

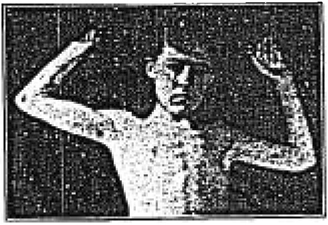

FIG. 6.—Case XXV. Compound comminuted fractures of both bones of left forearm, with compound comminuted fracture of left humerus. No deformity. Perfect function. See Figs. 7 and 8.

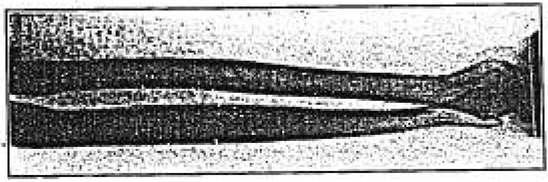

FIG. 7.—Case XXV. Lateral view of forearm five years after compound comminuted fracture of both bones.

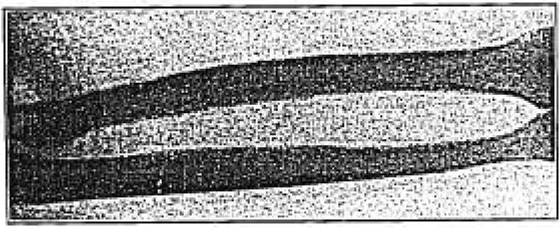

FIG. 8.—Case XXV. Antero-posterior view of forearm, five years after compound comminuted fracture of both bones.

CASE 26.—Henry D. E., aged fifty-seven years. November 26, 1906. Episcopal Hospital. Left. Compound comminuted fracture of both bones of left forearm, with comminuted fracture of left humerus. (Reported as Case V, in paper on "Multiple Fractures," in *Annals of Surgery*, 1907, ii, 263.) Treated with forearm in full supination. Examined January 21, 1912. Was out of work (saw-maker) for four months. Complete function not regained for one year. Since then has experienced no disability whatever. There is considerable deformity in forearm, bones being bowed to radial side. Left forearm: supination, 0 degrees; pronation, to 85 degrees. Right forearm: supination, 0 degrees; pronation, to 155 degrees. Class III.

CASE 27.—Albert B., aged three years. March 5, 1907. Episcopal Hospital. Right, greenstick, two weeks old; bones bowed to extensor surface, some callus; inability to supinate completely. Refractured, and dressed in full supination. Examined April 4, 1907. No deformity, supination and pronation complete. Class I.

CASE 28.—Harriet B., aged two years. March 29, 1907. Episcopal Hospital. Left, greenstick. Full supination. Examined April 26, 1907. Supination and pronation complete. Class I.

CASE 29.—Charles G., aged fourteen years. January 9, 1908. Episcopal Hospital. Left, full supination. Examined February 13, 1908. Class I.

CASE 30.—Harry W., aged thirty months. July 8, 1907. Children's Hospital. Left, greenstick. One month's duration. Very marked angulation just above wrist, about 135 degrees, angle being open on extensor surface. Refractured (ether) and dressed in full supination. July 15, no union yet. July 20, some union. Examined, August 15, 1907. Slight radial deviation of hand, due to rachitic deformity, same as in other arm. Supination and pronation complete. Class II.

CASE 31.—George W. D., aged fourteen years. July 23, 1907. Children's Hospital. Right, lower third. Full supination. Examined August 29, 1907. Supination complete, pronation about 140 degrees. Class I.

CASE 32.—Dillman F., aged five years. June 21, 1907. Children's Hospital. Right; compound of ulna. Dressed in midpronation. Examined August 8, 1907. Supination not quite complete, pronation complete. Some callus over radius, and slight deformity to flexor surface. Functions perfect. Class III.

CASE 33.—Clark W. B., aged four years. July 29, 1907. Children's Hospital. Left; same forearm was broken two years ago. Dressed in full supination. Examined August 29, 1907. Both bones bowed slightly to radial aspect; rotation from full supination is good. Class II.

CASE 34.—John H., aged twenty-two months. January 13, 1908. Episcopal Hospital. Left, greenstick. Full supination. Examined February, 1908. Class I.

CASE 35.—Marcus D., aged sixteen years. April 14, 1908. Episcopal Hospital. Epiphyseal separation of radius and greenstick of ulna above styloid. Full supination. Examined October 28, 1911. Class I.

CASE 36.—Louis S., aged fourteen years. April 22, 1908. Episcopal Hospital. Left, lower fifth. Full supination. Examined June 2, 1908. Class I.

CASE 37.—Charles W. H., aged 18 months. January 4, 1909. Episcopal Hospital. Left, greenstick. Full supination. Examined March, 1909. Class I.

CASE 38.—Clara Y., aged nine years. February 10, 1909. Episcopal Hospital. Right, two inches above wrist. Dressed on Bond splint, in mid-pronation, there being no tendency to deformity. Examined October 28, 1911. Class I.

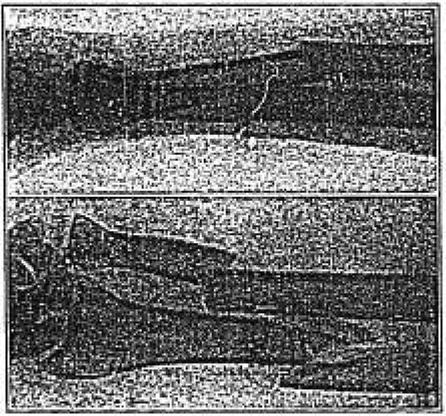

FIG. 9.—Case XXXIX. Lateral and antero-posterior views of comminuted fracture of both bones of forearm, showing best position secured. See Fig. 10.

CASE 39.—Michael S., aged fifty-three years. February 25, 1909. Episcopal Hospital. Right; comminuted; was caught in machinery. Dressed in full supination; accurate reduction not secured (Fig. 9). Delayed union. After ten weeks returned to his work (blacksmith), and two months later had firm union. Examined January 20, 1912. Right forearm: supination, 15 degrees; pronation, 105 degrees. Left forearm: supination, 0 degrees; pronation, 140 degrees. There is slight palpable bony deformity, but no disability whatever (Fig. 10). Class III.

CASE 40.—Victoria K., aged seventeen months. February 16, 1910. Episcopal Hospital. Right. Dressed in mid-pronation. Examined ten weeks later. Slight extensor bowing of ulna; supination and pronation complete. Class II.

CASE 41.—Wilson McC., aged fourteen years. March 23, 1910. Episcopal Hospital. Right, lower third. Full supination. Examined, January 20, 1912. No deformity palpable. Right forearm: supination, —35 degrees; pronation, 125 degrees. Left forearm: supination, —40 degrees; pronation, 140 degrees. Class I.

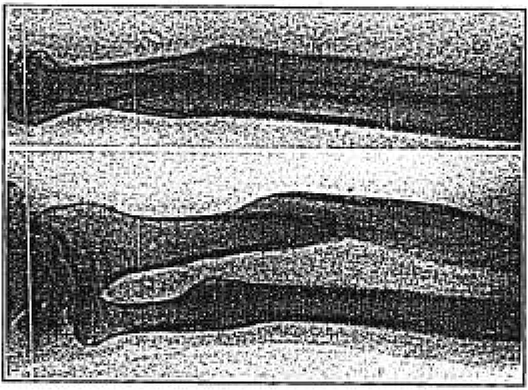

FIG. 10.—Case XXXIX. Lateral and antero-posterior views of comminuted fracture of both bones of forearm, three years after injury. There was delayed union, but patient was out of work only ten weeks in all. This is the worst result in the entire series.

CASE 42.—William E., aged fifteen years. January 18, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Right, above wrist. Full supination. Examined October 28, 1911. Class I.

CASE 43.—Helen K., aged three years. January 28, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Right, greenstick. Full supination. Examined October 28, 1911. Supination complete, pronation to 170 degrees. Class I.

CASE 44.—John L., aged seventeen years. August 11, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Complete of radius, greenstick of ulna. Full supination. Examined October 28, 1911. Perfect result. Supination complete, pronation to 160 degrees. Class I.

CASE 45.—George S., aged nine years. August 11, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Middle third, left; has been dressed in mid-pronation at another hospital. Examined October 27, 1911. Supination complete, pronation to 135 degrees. Class I.

CASE 46.—Harry M., aged thirteen years. August 16, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Right, above wrist. Full supination. Examined October 28, 1911. Supination complete, pronation to 135 degrees. Class I.

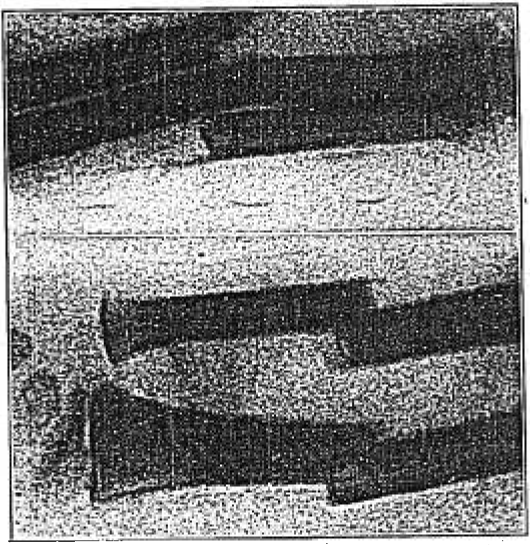

FIG. 11.—Case XLVII. Compound fracture of radius and ulna, before coming under care of the writers, and while still dressed in mid-pronation. See Figs. 12 and 13.

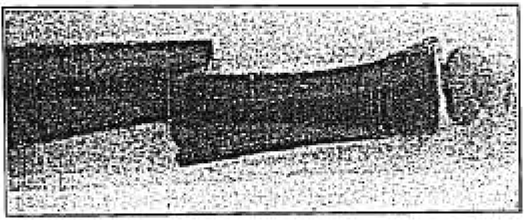

FIG. 12.—Case XLVII. Lateral view, after dressing in full supination, one week after injury.

CASE 47.—Roger McB., aged nine years. August 17, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Injury one week ago, and was referred as suitable for operation; had been dressed in mid-pronation (Fig. 11).

Better position secured by dressing in full supination (Figs. 12 and 13), and no operation recommended. Compound fracture of radius and ulna, wounds on flexor surface of forearm. Examined January 20, 1912. Slight amount of callus palpable. Injured forearm: supination, —30 degrees; pronation, 130 degrees. Normal forearm: supination, —20 degrees; pronation, 135 degrees. Class II. (Fig. 14.)

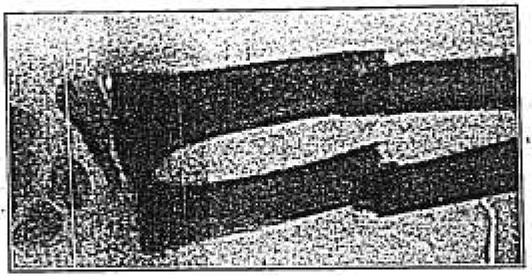

FIG. 13.—Case XLVII. Antero-posterior view after dressing in full supination.

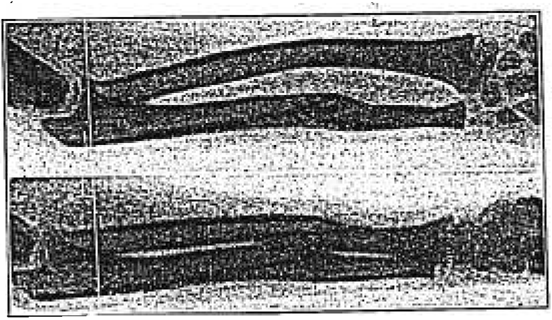

FIG. 14.—Case XLVII. Compound fracture of both bones of forearm five months after injury. Slight callus palpable. No visible deformity. Perfect function.

CASE 48.—Tony M., aged fourteen years. September 8, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Left; injury one week ago, junction of middle and upper thirds. Had been dressed in mid-pronation. Better position secured by dressing in full supination. Examined January 21, 1912. Slight posterior bowing of both bones. Left forearm: supination, 20 degrees; pronation, 150 degrees. Right forearm: supination, —5 degrees; pronation, 140 degrees. Class II.

CASE 49.—Richard W., aged thirteen years. September 23, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Left, middle third. Full supination. Skiagraph (Fig. 15) showed lower fragment of radius displaced to flexor surface. Examined, January 17, 1912. No visible deformity, slight callus palpable on flexor surface of radius (Fig. 16). Left forearm: supination, —15 degrees; pronation, 125 degrees. Right forearm: supination, —10 degrees; pronation, 135 degrees. Class II.

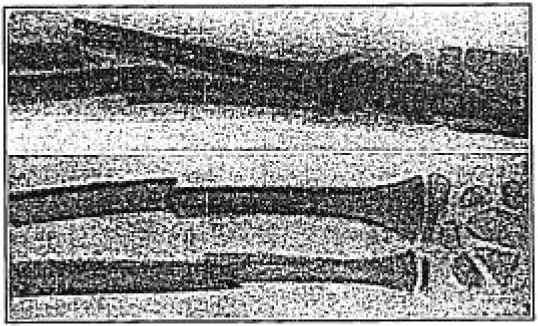

FIG. 15—Case XLIX. Lateral and antero-posterior views after first dressing. See Fig. 16.

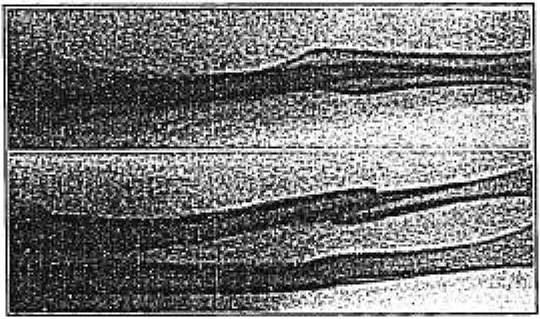

FIG. 16.—Case XLIX. Lateral and antero-posterior views four months after injury. Slight callus palpable. No visible deformity. Perfect function.

Case 50.—Herbert T., aged fourteen years. September 26, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Right, middle third. Dressed in full supination. Examined January 21, 1912. Some callus palpable. Right forearm: supination, —10 degrees; pronation, 155 degrees. Left forearm: supination, —10 degrees; pronation, 140 degrees. Class I.

Case 51.—John D., aged eighteen years. October 10, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Right, junction of middle and upper third. Full supination. Some projection of upper fragment of radius on flexor surface. Examined January 28, 1912. Slight callus of radius. Right forearm: supination, 40 degrees; pronation, 135 degrees. Left forearm: supination, —5 degrees; pronation, 120 degrees. Class III. (This patient was under the care of the writers only seventeen days.)

Case 52.—Stanley C., aged fourteen years. October 10, 1911. Episcopal Hospital. Left, lower third of radius, and through lower epiphysis of ulna. Full supination. Examined January 27, 1912. Left forearm: supination —15 degrees; pronation, 160 degrees. Right forearm: supination, —5 degrees; pronation, 160 degrees. Class I.

# FURTHER EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE TOXIC PATHOGENESIS OF BRONCHIAL ASTHMA, BASED UPON EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH.

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In 1905, in a paper before the Orleans Parish Medical Society,[1] I called the attention of the profession to the importance of a consideration of the role played by intestinal toxins in producing various pathological conditions. Since then I have given the matter special attention, and I had already collected several cases of bronchial asthma, associated with intestinal toxins, which were relieved by abolishing the intestinal toxemia, when Rochester[2] read his paper in 1906, before the Section on Medicine of the American Medical Association. The discussion following this paper showed that the general opinion of the profession was opposed

[1] Proceedings Orleans Parish Medical Society, 1905.

[2] Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc., 1906, xlvii, 1983.